

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

With this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1 and 7 and cancels claim 6 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant submits that no new issues are raised and no new matter is introduced by the amendments to claim 1 since such amendments comply with the requirements of form expressly set forth in the Advisory Action dated March 15, 2007 and no new matter is introduced by the amendment to claim 7, since such amendment was made in light of canceled claim 6. As such, the amendments to the claims 1 and 7 should be entered and considered at this juncture. Therefore, claims 1-5, 7-32 and 34-46 are all the claims currently pending in the present application. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicant requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims.

I. Rejection of the Claims

In the Advisory Action dated March 15, 2007, the Examiner indicates that “if keeping claim 1 in its present ‘amended state’ the following dependent claims” “4, 6-10, 12, and 14-15” “would make it novel.” (See page 2 of the Advisory Action dated March 15, 2007) The Examiner also indicated that “claims 16-46 are in condition for allowance.” (See *id.*) As such, Applicant has herein canceled claim 6 and included the recitations of claim 6 into independent claim 1, which includes the recitations in the Amendment After Final dated February 28, 2007, as suggested by the Examiner to place independent claim 1 in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-5 and 7-15.

Given that claims 16-46 are allowable, as indicated on page 2 of the Advisory Action dated March 15, 2007, and in light of the amendments to claim 1, Applicant submits that the presently pending claims i.e., claims 1-5, 7-32 and 34-46 are patentable and in a condition for allowance.

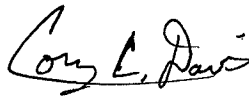
II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued in due course. Examiner D’Agosta is encouraged to contact Applicant’s undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

Appl. No.: 10/720,029
Amdt. dated 03/23/2007
Reply to Office action of September 29, 2006

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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